



zenescope

2

FRANCHINI
SANTAGRUZ
RODRIGUEZ
HATHAWAY

BELLE

**OATH OF
THORNS**





UNCLE...
UNCLE
LOUIS?

PLEASE.
YOU NEED TO CALM
DOWN.

GET
OUT!

YOU
CAN'T BE
HERE!



NOTHING...
NOTHING IS WHAT IT
APPEARS!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING.



IT'S
HERE, AROUND
US!

GET
OUT!

UNCLE
LOUIS, WHO'S
HERE?

PLEASE...YOU
NEED TO TELL ME WHAT'S
HAPPENING.



...WE...
CAN'T!

MS.
DIMARCO, PLEASE
STEP BACK. WE WILL
HANDLE IT FROM
HERE.

WHOA, HOLD ON.
HE'S SCARED ABOUT
SOMETHING.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON.





UGH. I DON'T FEEL
TOO GREAT.

CAN'T MOVE...

CAN'T MOVE
MY ARMS.

GOOD
MORNING, MS.
DIMARCO.

WHAT THE...

SERIOUSLY,
OTTIS?!

ARE THESE
REALLY
NECESSARY?

ARE YOU
GOING TO BEHAVE
YOURSELF?

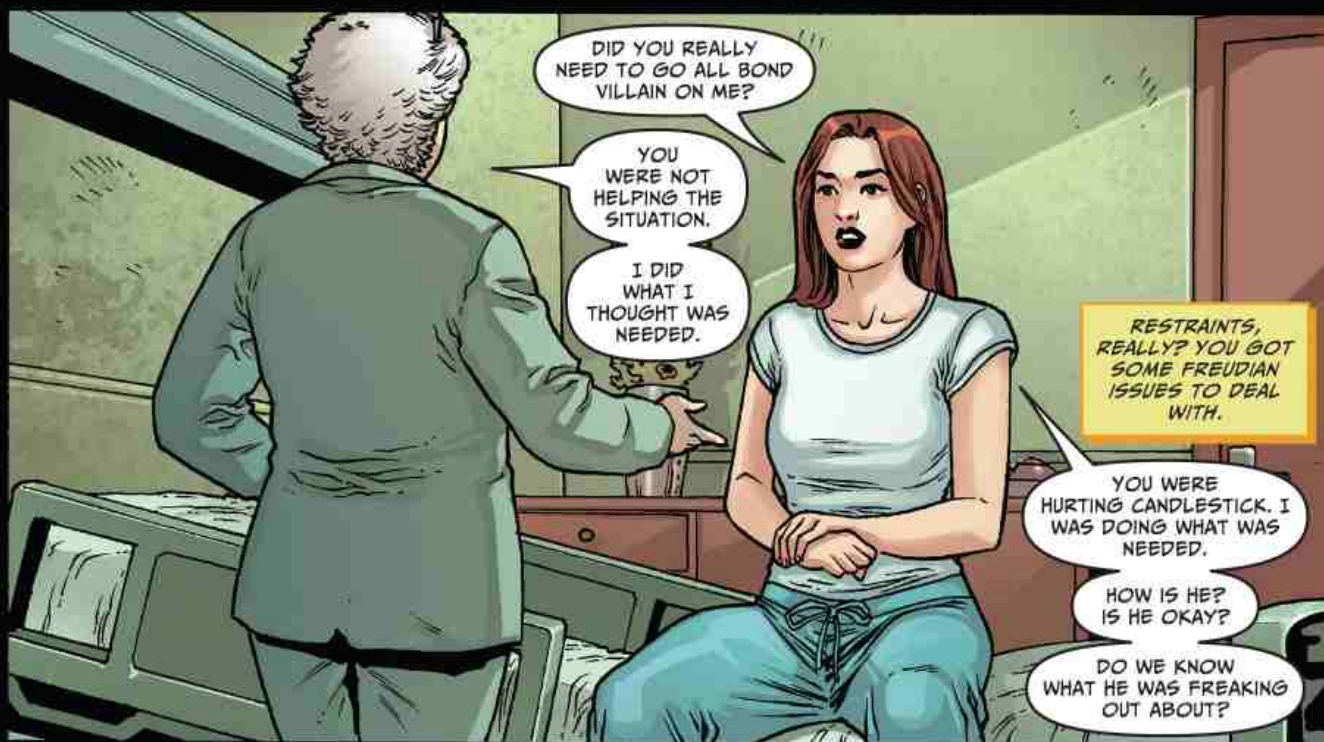
YOU
BETTER EXPLAIN
WHAT THE HELL
IS GOING ON
HERE.

THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
A "YES".

OH, I REALLY
HATE HER
RIGHT NOW.

I'LL
BE GOOD.
NOW GET
THESE OFF
OF ME.

THAT'S
ALL I WANTED
TO HEAR.



DID YOU REALLY
NEED TO GO ALL BOND
VILLAIN ON ME?

YOU
WERE NOT
HELPING THE
SITUATION.

I DID
WHAT I
THOUGHT WAS
NEEDED.

RESTRAINTS,
REALLY? YOU GOT
SOME FREUDIAN
ISSUES TO DEAL
WITH.

YOU WERE
HURTING CANDLESTICK. I
WAS DOING WHAT WAS
NEEDED.

HOW IS HE?
IS HE OKAY?

DO WE KNOW
WHAT HE WAS FREAKING
OUT ABOUT?



ARE YOU
DONE?

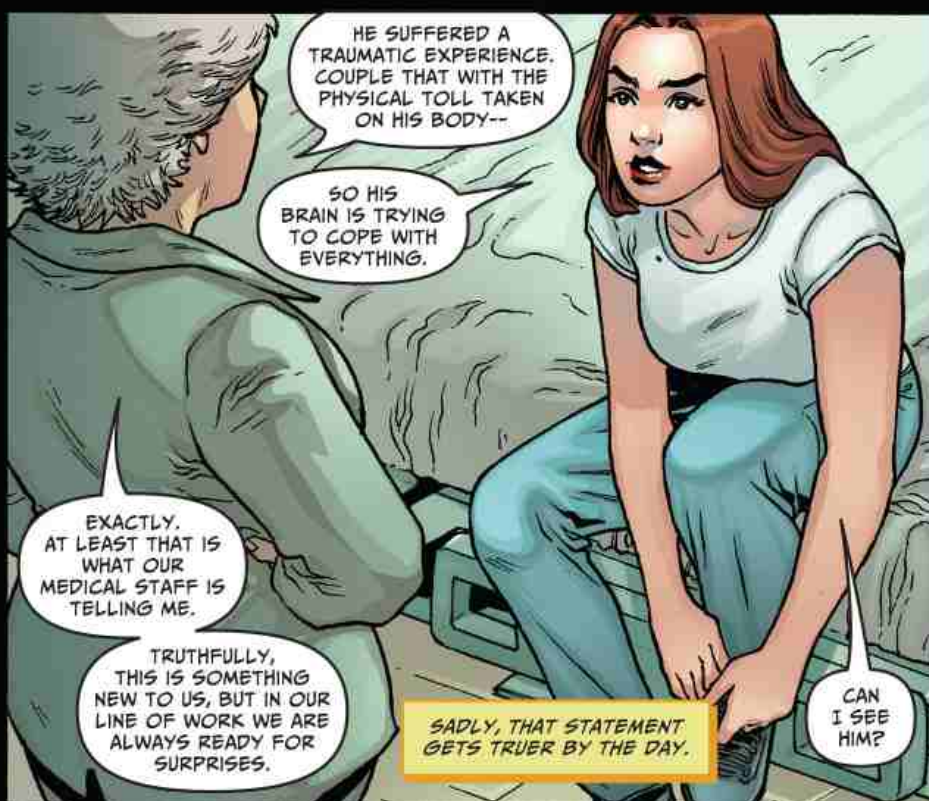
OKAY, SO ONE
QUESTION AT A TIME,
PLEASE.

BUT YES, WE
SUSPECT HE WAS
RELIVING HIS SHADOWS, IF
YOU WILL, OF HIS LAST
MEMORIES.



HUH?

IS
THAT EVEN A
THING?



HE SUFFERED A
TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE.
COUPLE THAT WITH THE
PHYSICAL TOLL TAKEN
ON HIS BODY--

SO HIS
BRAIN IS TRYING
TO COPE WITH
EVERYTHING.

EXACTLY.
AT LEAST THAT IS
WHAT OUR
MEDICAL STAFF IS
TELLING ME.

TRUTHFULLY,
THIS IS SOMETHING
NEW TO US, BUT IN OUR
LINE OF WORK WE ARE
ALWAYS READY FOR
SURPRISES.

SADLY, THAT STATEMENT
GETS TRUER BY THE DAY.

CAN
I SEE
HIM?



OF COURSE. WE HAVEN'T MOVED HIM.



WE JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T HURT HIMSELF OR OTHERS.

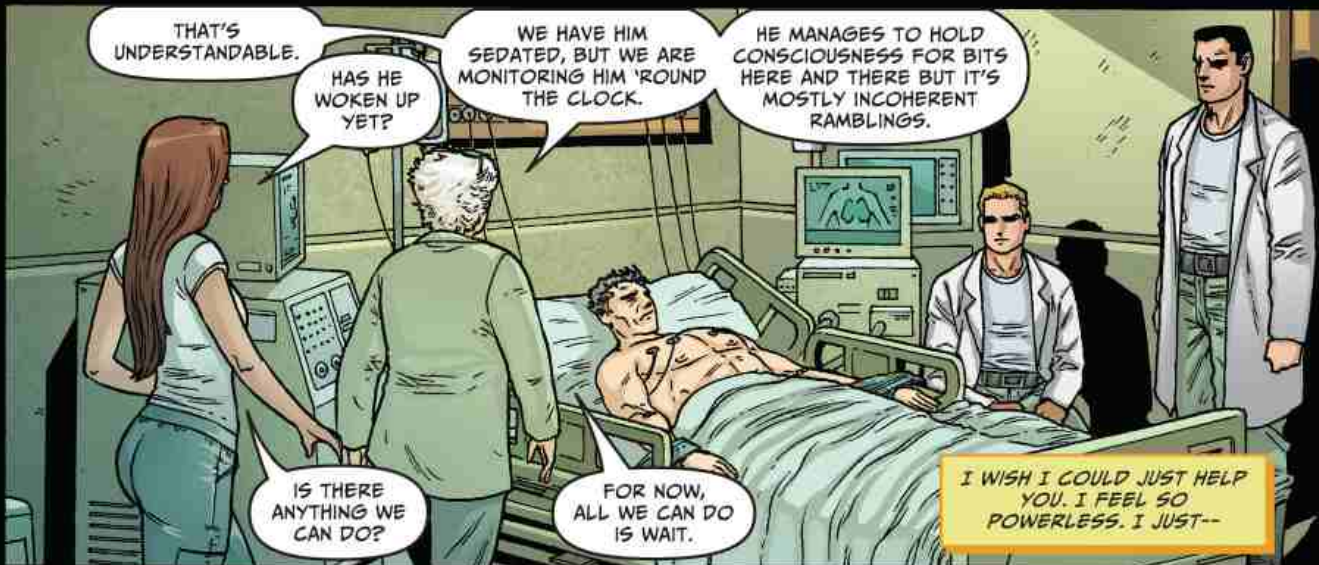
I GET THAT.

YOU NEED TO TRUST US. WE'RE YOUR ALLIES HERE. AND HE'S STILL MY BROTHER.

I KNOW AND I DO.

I'M TRYING.

JUST, EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST. MY INSTINCTS KICKED IN AND I JUST WANTED TO PROTECT HIM.



THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.

HAS HE WOKEN UP YET?

WE HAVE HIM SEDATED, BUT WE ARE MONITORING HIM 'ROUND THE CLOCK.

HE MANAGES TO HOLD CONSCIOUSNESS FOR BITS HERE AND THERE BUT IT'S MOSTLY INCOHERENT RAMBLINGS.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?

FOR NOW, ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT.

I WISH I COULD JUST HELP YOU. I FEEL SO POWERLESS. I JUST--



WELL, IF IT ISN'T ANABELLE "THE BEAST HUNTER" DIMARCO. AS I LIVE AND BREATHE.



MEL!?

CAN'T YOU EVER STAY OUT OF TROUBLE?





WHO ELSE
IS GOING TO FEED
HIM?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



IF I'M HERE, AND YOU'RE
HERE, THERE'S NO ONE BACK
THERE TO PROVIDE HIM
FOOD, MA'AM.

THAT'S
NOT WHAT I
MEAN.

HOW LONG DO
YOU ACTUALLY PLAN ON
STAYING?

I CAN KEEP
YOU UPDATED ON
UNCLE LOUIS.

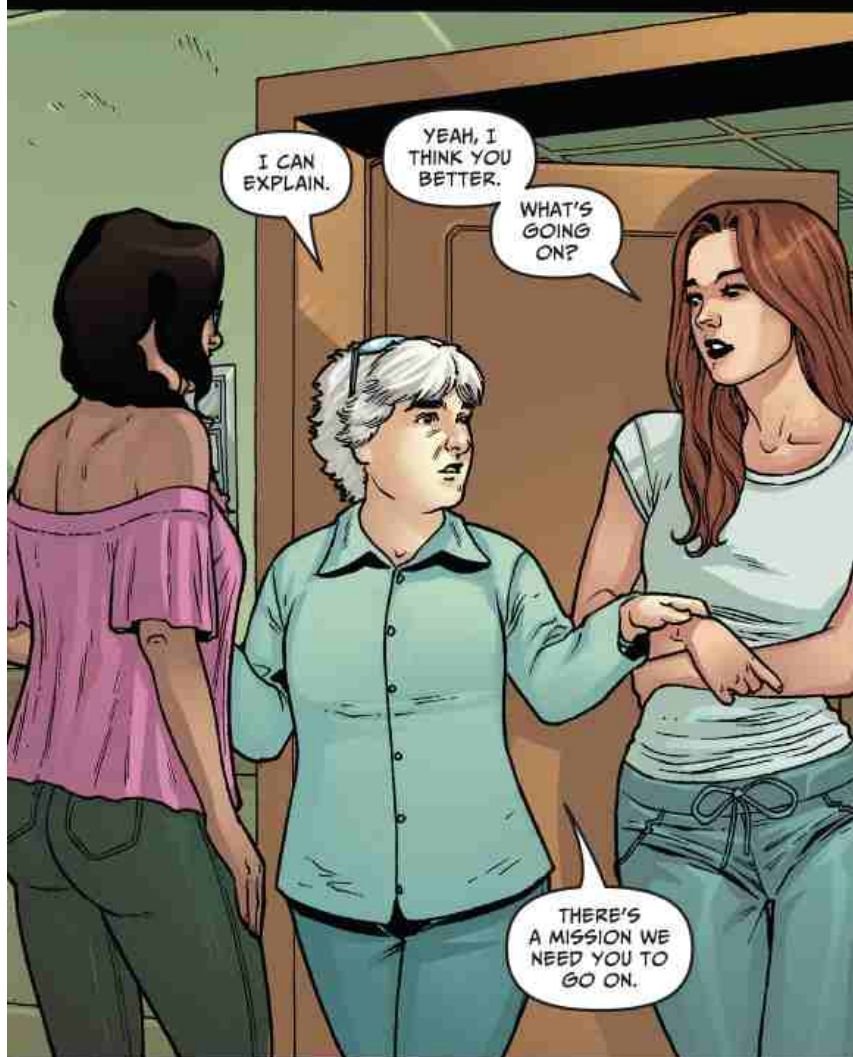


I WASN'T
REALLY FILLED IN ON
ALL THE DETAILS.

I WAS UNDER
THE IMPRESSION THAT
YOU WEREN'T GOING
TO BE HERE.

WAIT,
WHAT DETAILS?
WHO TOLD YOU
THAT?

I
DID.



I CAN
EXPLAIN.

YEAH, I
THINK YOU
BETTER.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

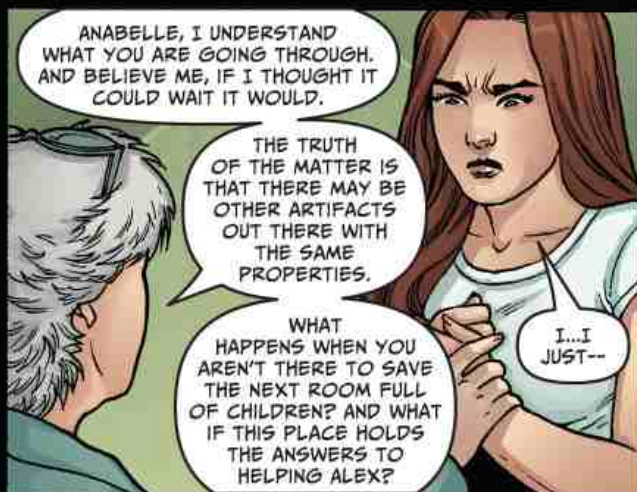
THERE'S
A MISSION WE
NEED YOU TO
GO ON.



THAT'S
NICE TO HEAR, BUT
I'M NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND--

OH, I
UNDERSTAND
ENGLISH PERFECTLY,
BUT I DON'T THINK
YOU DO.



SO WHAT
DO YOU GUYS
THINK?





THAT LOOKS REALLY COOL!

STILL HARD TO BELIEVE I KNOW A SUPERHERO.

HA, SHUT UP. YOU KNOW I HATE WHEN YOU SAY THAT. BUT YEAH, I DEFINITELY LIKE THE FEEL OF THIS ONE. IT'S LIGHT, EASIER TO MOVE IN.

YOUR EGGHEADS OUT-DID THEMSELVES.



THAT THEY DID. NOW, LET'S GO OVER SOME OF THE FEATURES. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO WASTE.

THIS SUIT FEELS LIGHTER, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY DEVELOPED TO WITHSTAND HIGH AMOUNTS OF PRESSURE.

IT'S BUILT FOR UNDERWATER TRAVEL.



UNDERWATER?

AM I GOING FOR A SWIM OR SOMETHING?

NOTHING LONG AND STRENUOUS, BUT HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU.



Whoa!

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

THERE'S A BUILT-IN AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM. IT ACTUALLY USES ELECTROLYSIS TO FILTER OXYGEN THROUGH YOUR SUIT FROM THE WATER AROUND YOU.

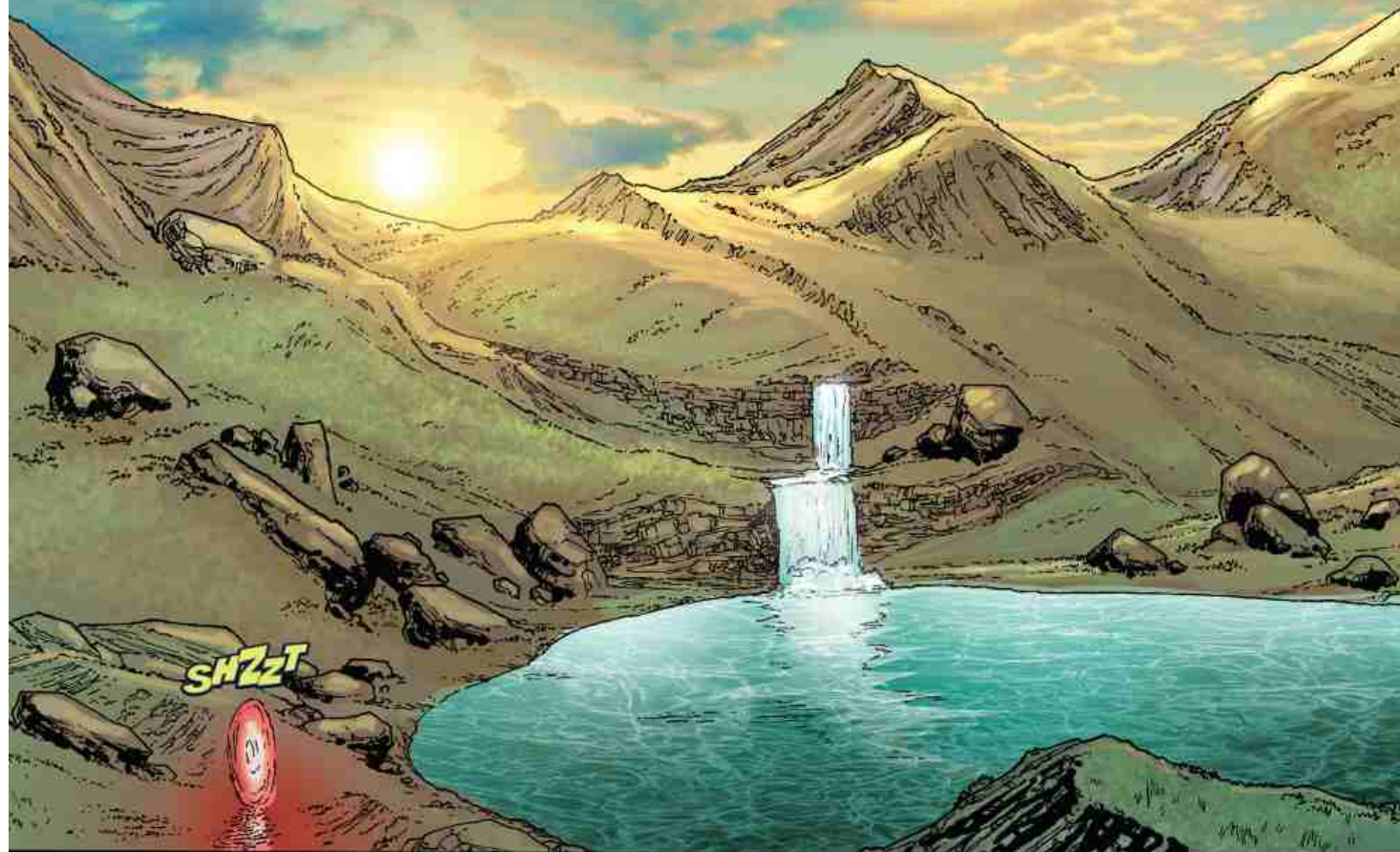


THIS IS CRAZY.

JUST CLICK THE SAME MECHANISM ON YOUR FOREARM AND IT WILL GO BACK IN.

NOW, COME ALONG.







I'M NOT SURE WHY I
EVEN LET LIFE SURPRISE
ME ANYMORE.

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY OTHER
DAY I'M DIVING HEADFIRST,
EXCUSE THE PUN, INTO ANOTHER
LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION.



I'D LIKE TO LIE TO
MYSELF AND SAY THAT
I'M USED TO IT.

OR THAT I DO IT SOLELY
FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
BUT REALLY THERE IS NO
GETTING USED TO IT.

AND AS MUCH AS I WANT TO
TELL MYSELF I'M SELFLESS,
I KNOW WHY I DO THIS.



I DO IT FOR MY
FAMILY. NOT JUST
FOR THE CENTURIES
OF RESPONSIBILITY
I FEEL LIKE WAS
THROWN ON ME.

I DO IT FOR...



...ALEX.

EVEN IF WE WEREN'T
BLOOD. HE WAS MY
BROTHER.



IT TOOK HIM
LEAVING FOR
ME TO REALIZE
THAT.
ESPECIALLY
SINCE I'M THE
REASON HE
LEFT.



I PUSHED HIM BEFORE HE
WAS READY TO SEARCH
FOR MY...OUR MOM.



HE FOUND HER, BUT SHE
TURNED OUT TO NOT BE THE
MOM WE REMEMBERED.

HE WOULD
HAVE NEVER
WENT
AFTER HER
IF IT
WASN'T
FOR ME.



NONE OF
THIS WOULD
HAVE
HAPPENED
TO HIM IF IT
WASN'T FOR
MY FAMILY.

I'M GOING TO FIND
A WAY TO HELP HIM.

I JUST HOPE
THIS PLACE...



...HAS THE ANSWER.



AR-CKRSH
-Y-U-IN?

OTT5?



OTT5,
CAN YOU HEAR
ME?

I MADE
IT INTO THE
MOUNTAIN.



DIMARCO, DO
YOU COPY? ARE YOU
INSIDE?

KRSHH

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



THE
SIGNAL IS BEING
BLOCKED FROM
THE MOUNTAIN.

SO ARE
YOU GOING TO
FIX THIS
COCKAMAMIE HUNK
OF JUNK?

I'M
AFRAID SHE'S
ON HER OWN
FOR NOW.

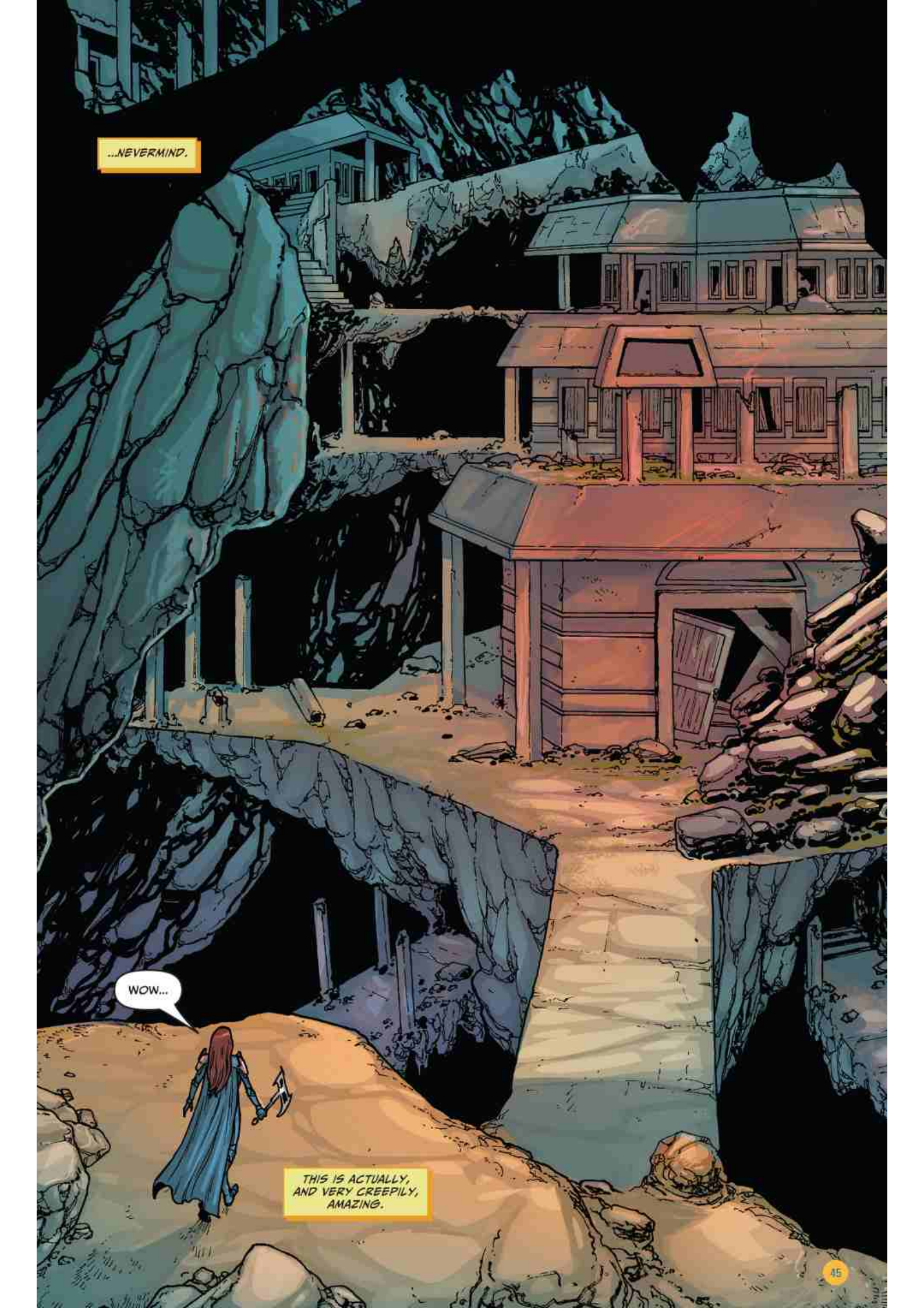
SHE'S
A BIG
GIRL...



"...SHE CAN
HANDLE IT."

WELL, THIS IS
PERFECT. NOT SURE
WHY I EXPECTED
DIFFERENTLY.

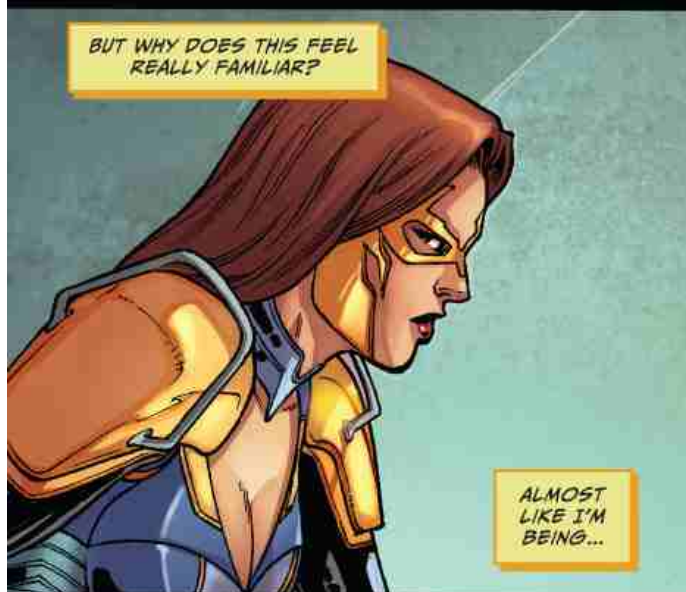
AT LEAST IT'S IN THIS BEAUTIFULLY
CLAUSTROPHOBIC LOCALE WITH A
GREAT VIEW OF THE...



...NEVERMIND.

WOW...

THIS IS ACTUALLY,
AND VERY CREEPILY,
AMAZING.





THAT'S EXACTLY
MORE LIKE IT.

YOU'RE
A FAST
ONE.

THINK



OH, AND
A PRETTY
ONE.

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

SKRAAA

WHY ARE ALL
MONSTERS JUST A
MASH-UP OF ALL OF
OUR NIGHTMARES?



SLUNK

...NO...

...TOUCHING!

DUMB QUESTION. WHY WOULD
THEY BE CALLED MONSTERS
IF THEY WEREN'T.



WELL, THAT WASN'T
SO BAD.



SKRAAA SKAA
SKAA SKAA

AND RIGHT
ON CUE.



GLAD TO KNOW THEY DIDN'T EXPECT ANY
RESIDENTS HERE AT THE MOUNTAIN OF DEATH INN.

GUESS YOU CAN'T TRUST
TECHNOLOGY THESE DAYS.



THIS IS NOT GOOD.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

IS STAYING FOR DINNER OUT OF THE QUESTION?



I DIDN'T THINK SO.



I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.



--UNHH

WHAT IS THIS STUFF?

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THIS IS FROM THOSE THINGS.

THOUGH IF IT'S NOT, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE WHERE IT'S COMING FROM.



HA-RFFF

NEED TO...

...GET THROUGH THIS.



THERE'S NO USE.

I'LL JUST TAKE THESE THINGS HEAD-ON.



AHHH!

OR NOT.



GET THE
HELL OFF
ME!

SKREEE--



SKREEE

UMPH--



UGH. THAT WAS
A BAD IDEA.

NEED TO...

...I NEED...



...TO...

...GET UP.



WELLLL COMMMEE
HSSUNNNTEERRR...

--UNH-
WHA...WHERE
AM I?

**TO BE
CONTINUED...**

BELLE

OATH OF THORNS